

Oregon’s Benjamin sees future in hoops

By STEVE MIMS
Eugene Register-Guard

EUGENE — Dwayne Benjamin followed his heart onto the football field Monday.

After one practice as an Oregon wide receiver, Benjamin changed his mind and decided that basketball was his future.

“It was a tough decision with me loving both sports as much as I do,” Benjamin said Thursday. “I just kind of made a premature decision going out there and not getting everything down or talking to a lot of people. After I made the first decision to go out, I talked to coach Altman and we talked about basketball as something I could do and then I talked to my family and changed my decision and decided to stick with basketball.”

Benjamin will begin interviewing agents to find him opportunities to play professional basketball, probably overseas to start his career. The 6-foot-7 forward has been invited to play on a team that will play games throughout China next month.

Benjamin averaged 8.1 points per game over his two seasons with the Ducks. The former prep football



Oregon forward Dwayne Benjamin (0) defends as Saint Joseph's forward DeAndre Bembry (43) dribbles the ball during the first half of a second-round men's college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament in Spokane, Wash., Sunday, March 20, 2016.

AP Photo/Young Kwak

player in Louisiana decided shortly after Oregon lost to Oklahoma in the West Regional final that he would play one season of football at Oregon in the fall and joined the Ducks for practice on Monday.

“It was great, the best two hours I have had in a long time,” he said. “I loved being out there and having the opportunity to put the Oregon jersey on, even if it was practice.”

That was the only practice Benjamin attended before deciding to focus on basketball.

“In life, you have to make decisions, and sometimes you don’t make the right one

and you have to move on from that,” he said. “Once I had the opportunity to do something I was raised doing and grew up loving, which is football, I hopped into that. Then I thought about it more and talked to coach and he gave me a few options I had and so I went with that.”

Altman, who was at the Final Four in Houston last weekend, said he wished he would have talked to Benjamin before he joined the football team.

“Dwayne jumped into that pretty quick, and part of it is that we should have been talking before,” Altman said. “His future is in basketball and when we sat down and

talked, he realized that.

“He has an opportunity to go to China and opportunities are coming up. I apologize to Mark (Helfrich) and the football staff for taking a day out of their time because we should have had those conversations before he did that. I hope it wasn’t a distraction to Mark and his team.”

Altman said Benjamin made the right decision.

“He can go overseas and get his career started and hopefully develop and get an opportunity sometime in the United States,” Altman said. “I definitely think he can go overseas and have a good career.”

LACROSSE: Lincoln takes over in second period

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mere 15 seconds later to take a quick 2-0 lead. Hermiston was able to battle back and get a goal from sophomore Luke Walchi at the 2:36 mark of the first — Walchi’s team-leading 17th goal of the season — to bump the score to 2-1 which the teams would take to the end of the first period.

But in the second period, the wheels fell off for Hermiston as Lincoln turned up their intensity and held the possession for the majority of the game. Lincoln scored seven goals in the second period, using their speed to fluster the Hermiston defense and get some easy looks against Bulldog goalie Beau Blake.

“We just kind of ran into a better team today,” Arnold said. “We played with a lot of emotion in that first period, but the boys played hard with what they had faced this week.”

Walchi said he and his fellow teammates were very disappointed in the result.

“Before the game our emotions were running really, really high and everybody wanted to do well for Trampis,” he said. “But we just kind of got flustered as the game went along and didn’t do what we wanted to do.”

Friday’s game presented



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston’s Jamie Zweifelhofer looks to pass around Lincoln’s Hunter McKercher in the Bulldogs’ 15-1 loss to the Cardinal on Friday in Hermiston.

the teams’ fourth-straight loss on the season as the offense has fallen into a bit of a slump. Hermiston has scored a combined 18 goals in those four losses after scoring a combined 23 goals in the first two wins. Walchi said that the team needs to come back to practice on Monday with a plan to work even harder if they want to get back on track to reach their season goal.

“A goal Trampis always had for us was he wanted

us to have a positive record because our lacrosse team hasn’t had a winning record for a long time,” he said. “He always called (the varsity team) the tip of the sword because our youth program is growing and everyone’s success all starts with us.”

In fact, over the last 15 years Hermiston has never won more than eight games in a season, a feat which was accomplished last season. But as the team moves forward, Arnold says that he

knows his hands will be full trying to keep them focused.

“It’ll be hard just to keep the kids going in the right direction,” he said. “But just like any sports team you have bumps in the road, and we have to keep pushing if we want to make a run toward the playoffs.”

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Pro Baseball

Dodgers’ Stripling pulled with no-hitter

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Ross Stripling was pulled with a no-hitter in progress during the eighth inning of his major league debut, and new Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts was willing to take all the criticism for yanking him.

“No-brainer,” Roberts insisted.

Stripling went 7 1/3 innings, then left after his 100th pitch on a rainy Friday night. The San Francisco Giants wound up winning 3-2 in the 10th on Brandon Crawford’s home run.

Roberts said he made the move to protect Stripling’s long-term health, two years after the rookie had Tommy John surgery.

“It was the right call,” Stripling said. “It was a

tough decision for him and I certainly had no ill feelings toward the decision one bit.”

And Stripling told Roberts just that when they met in his office with the game still going after the skipper got ejected.

In a decision sure to be debated around baseball, Roberts removed Stripling after the right-hander walked Angel Pagan. Stripling was on a pitch count, even if he didn’t know about it. Roberts even wondered about sending him out for the eighth.

“We made that decision before the game. The most he threw in spring was 78 pitches. He’s coming off Tommy John, he threw 70 innings last year,” Roberts said. “At 100 pitches, that was our number. ... I want to keep his future and health in mind. I made that decision if somebody gets on base, we’re going to go to (Chris Hatcher).”

PERFECTION: Root scores game-winner in night cap

Continued from 1B

said. “We made a lot of contact, got a lot of hits, and the other balls that we hit were really hard.”

Sexton added to his big afternoon in Game 2 by going 2 for 2 with another RBI, and he pitched the first six innings allowing just two hits and striking out 11. Root struck out all three batters he faces in the seventh for the save.

Parkrose (3-5) Game 2 starter Gunnar Schlichting kept the Bulldogs off balance through four innings with his off-speed pitches and left with the score knotted at 0-0.

Reliever John Slossar kept it a scoreless tie going into the sixth, but walked Root to lead off the inning. Root then stole second base and scored from there on a single by Sexton for the eventual game-winner.

Head coach Lance Hawkins said he was happy with the team’s approach after a disappointing outing in its previous game this week, and thought the team brought great focus and teamwork to the diamond on Friday.

“I think we’re ready to go for the league season,” Christy said.

Hermiston opens Columbia River Conference play on Saturday, April 16 in a doubleheader against The Dalles that starts at noon at Armand Larive Middle School.

Game 1						R	H	E
HHS	360	12	—	11	13	0		
PHS	000	00	—	0	0	4		

R. Robles and S. Gritz. M. Weeks, J. Slossar (3) and Z. Thomas.

2B — R. Robles 2, C. Root (HHS).

Game 2						R	H	E
HHS	000	001	2	—	3	4	0	
PHS	000	000	0	—	0	2	0	

T. Sexton, C. Root (7) and S. Gritz.

G. Schlichting, J. Slossar (5) and E. Hardman. W — Sexton. L — Slossar.

S — Root.

2B — C. Caldwell (HHS).

RUGBY: Boys game will follow

Continued from 1B

opportunity to get them out,” Taylor said.

Valley is one of two undefeated teams left in their league, and won its opener 55-22 over Reynolds.

“We really really want to win, but realistically I think we should just hold them,” Taylor said. “But we all want to win so I think that’s what we’re going to try to do.”

There is no admission charge for spectators. Following the girls’

match, the East Oregon Sasquatch will take on the Clark County Warriors at 1:30 p.m. in boys’ action.

The Sasquatch (1-2) are tied for first place with four points in the Club Championship Black Division but are coming off a 35-0 loss to the Northside Panthers in their last game.

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SCOREBOARD

Local Slate									
PREP BASEBALL									
Today									
Weston-McEwen vs. Dufur (DH), 11 a.m.									
Mac-Hi vs. Ontario (DH), Noon									
Stanfield vs. Burns (DH), 2 p.m.									
Umatilla at Vale (DH), 2 p.m.									
Monday									
Pendleton at Walla Walla (WA), 4 p.m.									
Tuesday									
Weston-McEwen at Pilot Rock, 4 p.m.									
Umatilla at Touchet (WA), 4 p.m.									
Riverside vs. Prescott (WA), 4 p.m.									
Heppner at Grant Union, 4 p.m.									
Irrigon vs. Dufur, 4:30 p.m.									
Stanfield at Tri-Cities Prep (WA), 5 p.m.									
PREP SOFTBALL									
Today									
Heppner at Echo, 11 a.m.									
Mac-Hi vs. Ontario (DH), Noon									
Umatilla at Vale (DH), Noon									
Weston-McEwen at Riverside (DH), 1 p.m.									
Monday									
Hermiston at Canby, 4 p.m.									
Tuesday									
Echo at Weston-McEwen, 1 p.m.									
Irrigon vs. Union, 3:30 p.m.									
Heppner at Burns, 3:30 p.m.									
Pilot Rock at Culver, 4 p.m.									
Umatilla at Touchet (WA), 4 p.m.									
Riverside vs. Watsburg (WA), 4 p.m.									
Mac-Hi at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.									
PREPTRACK & FIELD									
Today									
Hermiston, Pendleton at Oregon City, 10 a.m.									
Weston-McEwen, Pilot Rock, Heppner, Helix, Echo at Stanfield Invite, 11 a.m.									
Ione at Burns, Noon									
PREP GOLF									
Monday									
Pendleton, Hermiston (boys) at Bend CC, 10:30 a.m.									
Tuesday									
Hermiston (girls) at Awbury Glen GC, Noon									
Hermiston (girls), Mac-Hi (girls), Heppner at La Grande CC, 1 p.m.									
PREPTENNIS									
Monday									
Mac-Hi at Umatilla, 3 p.m.									
Tuesday									
Hermiston (boys) at Pendleton, 4 p.m.									
Pendleton (girls) at Hermiston, 4 p.m.									
Umatilla at Condon, 4 p.m.									
Mac-Hi at Stanfield, 4 p.m.									
Riverside at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.									
Ione at Helix, 4 p.m.									
PREP RUGBY									
Today									
East Oregon (girls) vs. Valley, Noon									
East Oregon (boys) vs. Clark County, 1:30 p.m.									
COLLEGE BASEBALL									
Today									
Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (DH), 1 p.m.									
COLLEGE SOFTBALL									
Today									
Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (DH), 1 p.m.									
Today's Games									
Phoenix at New Orleans, 4 p.m.									
Boston at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.									
Golden State at Memphis, 5 p.m.									
Cleveland at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.									
Oklahoma City at Sacramento, 7:30 p.m.									